

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 SSC-01 /076 W
-----080991 121913Z /72

R 121034Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8365
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2147

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, ET, SU
SUBJ: ETHIO-SUDANESE RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 1889

SUMMARY. RESIDENT SUDANESE DIPLOMAT STATED THAT ETHIOPIA HAD ACCEPTED NEW SUDANESE AMBASSADOR WHO WOULD BE ARRIVING AFTER OAU SUMMIT. HE ALSO SAID SUDAN WAS WORKING FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA AND MEETING TO FURTHER THIS GOAL WOULD BE HELD IN NAIROBI SHORTLY. HE CONFIRMED BORDER INCIDENT REPORTED REFTEL, ADDING HE WAS NOT PERSONALLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT NEAR TERM IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. IT WAS EVIDENT FROM SUDANESE DIPLOMATS'S REMARKS THAT BOTH COUNTRIES DESIRED IMPROVED RELATIONS, BUT THAT FOR TIME BEING, THERE APPEARED TO BE INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS PREVENTING THIS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, RESIDENT SUDANESE DIPLOMAT OUSMAN (LNU) STATED THAT SUDAN HAD NAMED
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NEW AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA AND THIOPIANS HAD ALREADY GRANTED AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, NEW AMBASSADOR WOULD NOT ARRIVE IN ADDIS UNTIL AFTER JULY OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM. OUSMAN IDENTIFIED NEW AMBASSADOR AS RASHID NOUREDDINE, CURRENTLY SUDAN'S AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO. (EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY BIO INFORMATION ADDRESSEES COULD PROVIDE.)

2. OUSMAN CONFIRMED THAT ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN WOULD HOLD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING IN NAIROBI "THIRD WEEK IN MAY." (RELIABLE SOURCE HAS INDICATED MEETING WILL BE MAY 18 THROUGH 20.) OUSMAN BELIEVED REPRESENTATION WOULD BE AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL AND INCLUDE OTHER MINISTERS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS. HE CLAIMED THAT NAIROBI VENUE WAS CHOSEN, EVEN THOUGH SUDAN GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO EITHER ADDIS ABAB OR KHARTOUM, BECAUSE ETHIOPIANS DID NOT WANT ONUS OF ANY POSSIBLE FAILURE TO BE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. OUSMAN SAID THAT NAIROBI MEETING WAS FURTHER STEP IN EFFORT TO PERSUADE CHAIRMAN MENGISTU TO ATTEND OAU SUMMIT DURING WHICH TIME PRIVATE MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED BETWEEN HIM AND PRES. NIMEIRI.

3. IN CONTEXT OF SUDANESE APPREHENSION ABOUT "COMMUNIST" MENGISTU REGIME AND HEAVY SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA, OUSMAN RELATED INCURSIONS INTO SUDAN BY ETHIOPIAN AIRCRAFT ALONG SUDAN/ERITREAN BORDER. HE SAID THAT THESE INCIDENTS HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF OAU AND THAT ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN HAD BEEN CALLED IN TO RECEIVE FORMAL PROTEST FROM SUDAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT SUDAN GOVT WISHED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA, BUT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT SHORT-TERM PROSPECTS. HE CLAIMED THAT ETHIOPIANS WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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PREVENTING DISSIDENT ANSARS WITHIN ETHIOPIA FROM RETURNING TO SUDAN AND ADMITTED THAT ERITREANS IN SUDAN WERE DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR SUDAN GOVT. HE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY SANGUINE ABOUT ANY POSITIVE RESULTS FROM SCHEDULED NAIROBI MEETING.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ADDIS02147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780202-1034
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780567/aaaacegv.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a3ec16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KHARTOUM 1889
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2713710
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIO-SUDANESE RELATIONS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, ET, SU, (NOUREDDINE, RASHID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a3ec16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014